PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1872.

REPORT

On the Sanitary Condition

OF THE

WESTBURY & WHORWELLSDOWN RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT

For the Year 1902.

Presented to the Westbury and Whorwellsdown Rural District Council by

WALTER H. REED,

Medical Officer of Health of the Westbury and Whorwellsdown Rural Sanitary Authority.

Westbury:

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REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health on the Sanitary Condition of the Westbury and Whorwellsdown Rural District for the Year 1902.

To the Chairman and Members of the Westbury and Whorwellsdown Rural District Council (acting as the Rural Sanitary Authority)

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the several Villages included in the area of the Westbury and Whorwellsdown Rural District Council.

The Area of the District is 27,118 acres.

The Population in 1901 was 6404.

The Births registered during the year were:

WESTBURY - - Males, 35; females, 35; Total, 70.
NORTH BRADLEY - Males, 36; females, 33; Total, 69.
For the whole district 139.

The Birth-rate per 1000 of the population is 21·7.

The Deaths registered during the year were:

WESTBURY - - Males, 21; females, 22; Total, 43.
NORTH BRADLEY - Males, 28; females, 27; Total, 55.
For the whole district 98.

The Death-rate per 1000 of the population is 15·3.

The number of deaths of Infants under one year of age is ten, which gives a death-rate of 71·9 per 1000, which is lower than any preceding year.

Two deaths only of an infectious character have occurred, viz: one of Measles at Edington, and one of Erysipelas at Bratton.

Twenty-three cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified to me during the year, viz: Diphtheria, 8; Erysipelas, 14; and Scarlet Fever, 1.

Of the eight cases of Diphtheria four occurred in two cottages at Yarnbrook. They were not severe and soon recovered. I sent a report to the Council in which I referred to the condition of the ditches surrounding the houses.

I venture to suggest that these open ditches which are so close to the cottages be closed, and trapped drains substituted with suitable catch-pits from whence the solid matter could be removed. The ground lies on a dead level, so that there is no fall for drainage through open ditches which become receptacles for all kinds of filth, both animal and vegetable. This is not the first time that fever has occurred in this locality.

One case at Steeple Ashton I could assign no cause for. It was also a mild form.

One case at East Farm, West Ashton, was severe. I attributed this case to bad drainage at West Ashton Schools. The drains were rectified under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector, and I closed the Schools for a few days over the summer vacation.

The other two cases (one at Road and one at West Ashton) were both very severe. They were imported, the one from London and the other from Stourton, where there was a serious outbreak. The houses were disinfected as soon as the cases recovered.

The cases of Erysipelas were isolated, not epidemic. The fatal case of Erysipelas was that of an old woman.

The only case of Scarlet Fever occurred at Dilton Marsh. The patient was kept isolated, and the house was disinfected as soon as she recovered.

There was an outbreak of Measles and Whooping Cough at Southwick and North Bradley, in July and August, necessitating the closing of the Schools for three weeks.

With regard to the Water Supply at Dilton Marsh 140 connections have been made to the Joint Water Supply's Mains. There are several houses where the present supply is doubtful, and I hope the owners will connect with the Public Mains. The outlying houses on Hisomley Hill are without any water.

The Water Supply for Chapmanslade, as well as that of Steeple Ashton, is now receiving the attention of your Council, and is referred to in the report of your Sanitary Inspector.

The Drainage at Southwick has been somewhat improved, but there are several unsatisfactory places, as well as at North Bradley and Yarnbrook. The Drainage at Road when completed will be of great benefit.

I have periodically visited each Village in your District, as well as also has your Sanitary Inspector, whose Report will be laid before you.

The comparative low death-rate and the absence of any great epidemic points out that the district as a whole is in a fairly healthy condition.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER H. REED, M.O.H.

Table 1.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1902 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of age.		Deaths at all Ages.		Nett Deaths at all Ages	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.	Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*
1892	10308	233	22·6	34	145·9	205	19·8	205	19·8
1893	10313	305	29·5	33	108·2	131	12·7	131	12·7
1894	10357	236	22·7	34	144·0	177	17·8	177	17·8
1895	10398	262	25·1	23	87·7	160	15·0	160	15·0
1896	10415	212	20·3	26	122·6	135	12·9	135	12·9
1897	10471	248	23·6	43	173·3	154	14·7	154	14·7
1898	10541	207	19·6	19	91·7	137	12·9	137	12·9
1899	10591	245	23·1	18	73·4	139	13·1	139	13·1
1900	6829	156	20·8	18	115·6	103	15·7	103	15·7
1901	6404	145	22·6	11	75·8	92	14·3	92	14·3
Averages for years 1892-1901	9662	224	22	25	113·6	143	14·8	143	14·8
1902	6404	139	21·7	10	71·9	98	15·3	98	15·3

* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 27,118

Total population at all ages 6404
Number of inhabited houses ..... 2413 } At Census of 1901.
Average number of persons per house ..... 2·9

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District ..... None.
Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District ..... Union Workhouse, Westbury.
Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District .... None.
Is the Union Workhouse within the District? ..... No.

Table 2.—Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1902 and previous Years.

Names of Localities.	Whole District.				Westbury.				North Bradley.			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1892	10308	233	205	34	6671	142	141	23	3637	91	64	11
1893	10313	305	131	33	6649	190	82	20	3664	115	49	13
1894	10357	236	177	34	6627	155	120	20	3730	81	57	14
1895	10398	262	160	23	6662	160	108	17	3736	102	52	6
1896	10415	212	135	26	6628	136	84	20	3787	76	51	6
1897	10471	248	154	43	6659	169	106	29	3812	79	48	14
1898	10541	207	137	19	6698	136	98	15	3843	71	39	4
1899	10591	245	139	18	6736	161	84	14	3855	84	55	4
1900	6829	156	103	18	3246	79	57	13	3583	77	46	5
1901	6404	145	92	11	3158	71	49	7	3246	74	43	4
Averages of years 1892 to 1901	9662	224	143	26	5973	139	93	17	3689	85	50	9
1902	6404	139	98	10	3150	70	43	4	3254	69	55	6

Table 3.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1902.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.						
	At all Ages	At Ages.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15.	15 to 25	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.
Diphtheria	8	..	...	5	3	...	...
Erysipelas	14	...	...	...	2	7	5
Scarlet Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Totals	23	...	...	5	6	7	5

Isolation Hospital.....None.

Table 4.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1902.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Measles	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Phthisis	4	...	...	...	2	1	1
Other tubercular diseases	2	1	1	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	4	..	...	...	...	...	4
Bronchitis	7	...	...	...	1	...	6
Pneumonia	13	...	2	...	3	2	6
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	12	...	...	...	1	7	4
Accidents	3	1	1	1	...	...	...
Suicides	5	...	...	...	...	4	1
All other causes	44	7	2	...	1	1	33
All causes	98	10	7	1	8	16	56

To the Westbury and Whorwellsdown Rural District Council.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector's Report

For the Year ending December, 1902.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my eighteenth Annual Report as Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for your district.

Highways.—The work here has been of a routine character, and beyond the piping in of some ditches at Bulkington, and the erection of additional Direction Posts where needed, only work of repair has been executed.

Twenty-five notices to cut hedges and scour ditches have been served.

Water Supply.—Further connections to the number of fifty-one have been made with the Public Mains in the Village of Dilton Marsh, and I hope next year to be able to report that all the premises requiring a proper supply of water have received the same.

The question of a water supply for that portion of the village of Chapmanslade in your district is receiving your consideration.

Steeple Ashton.—The yield of water from the borehole sunk at Abury was insufficient for the requirements of the district, but the question of water supply for the Rood Ashton Estate is under consideration, and I hope from that quarter a supply sufficient, at least, for the domestic requirements of the village, may eventually be obtained.

Drainage of Road Village.—Plans and estimates for a combined Scheme of Sewage Disposal for the village have been submitted to the Local Government Board for approval, and you have also submitted plans for proposed new drains in various parts of your portion of the village A Local Government Board Inquiry will no doubt be held on the matter at an early date.

I have made periodical inspections of the district, and in some portions of it house to house visits have been paid, and beyond the ordinary nuisances which occur in every Rural District I have had nothing special to report.

Seventy-three notices have been served dealing with various sanitary defects and shortcomings, and these have been generally remedied, a few however remain outstanding and are receiving my attention.

The Schools, Factories, Bakehouses, Dairies and Slaughter-houses have been kept under observation.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. STANLEY.

January, 1903.

Rural District of Westbury and Whorwellsdown.

Sanitary Inspector—Mr. W. H. STANLEY.

Address—Trowbridge and Westbury.

Whether whole time devoted to duties of Sanitary Inspector or not? No.

Date of last Re-appointment—September, 1902.

Summary of Work done in Sanitary Inspector's Department, during year ending 31st December, 1902.

Prevention of Infectious Disease under direction of Medical Officer of Health.

No. of Cases inquired into	8
No. of Houses Disinfected and Cleansed ...	6

Houses.

No. erected	3
No. Closed as unfit for Habitation	1

House Drains.

No. Laid or Re-laid	4
No. Cleansed, Trapped, and Ventilated ...	17
No. of Defective Waste Pipes rectified ...	1

Privies and Ashpits.

No. of additional Privies and Ashpits provided	4
No. converted to Pail-Closets	8
No. Repaired	5

Water Supply.

No. of Wells Closed as Polluted	4
No. of Houses Supplied from Waterworks (during year)	51
No. of Samples taken for Analysis	4

Slaughter Houses.

No. Registered or Licensed	5
No. regularly Inspected	5
No. Cleansed and Repaired	1

Dairies and Cowsheds.

No. of Persons Engaged in Milk Trade now on Register and under Supervision ...	74
No. of Contravention of Acts, Orders, and Bye-laws dealt with	3

Factories and Workshops and Bakehouses.

No. under Inspection	11
No. Certified for Lime-Washing by Inspector...	3
No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances	2

Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance.

No. of Cases of Removal on Notice ...	2

Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.

No. of Removals	12

Clerical Work.

No. of Notices served	73
No. of Notices complied with	60
No. of Notices outstanding	13